

Bledsoe County Public Library

August 21, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the secretary
445-12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sirs:

Subject: CC Docket No. 02-6 - Request for Review.
FRN # 772888. Failure to file 486
#253427. Form identifier BLE486-02.

I have been the Director of the Bledsoe County Library for nearly twenty years. The library is the only one in the county. I serve a population of 12,367 with an assistant who works eighteen hours per week. I am the only person who can file the ERATE forms. During the time period that the 486 should have been filed I was on partial leave taking care of a family member who was terminally ill. I did not realize the 486 had not been filed until I filed the BEAR form on September 15, 2003. My letter of appeal was denied by SLD in their letter of June 28, 2004.

Our entire operating budget, excluding salaries, is \$8,000.00. The loss of \$954.00 is devastating to our technology plans. I try very hard to give my patrons the best service I can with very limited resources. I do not feel that my patrons should suffer reduced services because of my human mistake.

ERATE has been a positive force in our community and I am very grateful for funding in past years. Please reconsider and fully fund my request.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Knight
Director

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Libraries' support lagging

BY KATHLEEN BAYDALA
STAFF WRITER

Public libraries in Southeast Tennessee have roughly a fifth as many librarians, books and funding as the national average, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Area officials say that's partly because county and city governments don't have the resources to fully support libraries. Most libraries in the region are funded primarily by local tax money.

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The rural library, which serves a population of more than 12,000, has one librarian and one part-time assistant and about 6,000 books. The lack of funding prevents the library from hiring more employees or buying new reading materials, Ms. Knight said.

"We're almost always overwhelmed. With one or two people, we have to do everything," she said. "When you're trying to wait on a patron and write a grant, you're constantly overwhelmed. I could close myself, I would be in good shape."

Bledsoe County Mayor Gregg Ridley said the County Commission is dedicated to keeping the library up and running but cannot afford to greatly increase its funding.



Eleven-year-old Kyle Gardener browses for books in the children's section of the Cleveland Public Library on Tuesday.

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN McRAE LOFTIN

"We have lost quite a bit of sales tax revenue over the last three years," Mr. Ridley said. This year, county commissioners approved budget cuts to free up money for debt payment, he said.

Commissioners allotted the library more than \$38,500 this fiscal year, Mr. Ridley said. The county also pays for the library's utilities, employee insurance and building maintenance, he said.

In a comparison of public libraries in Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea and Sequatchie counties, the county library had fewer librarians and books than the national average is 3.67 librarians per 10,000 people and 6.39 books per 10,000 people.

Most of the libraries also are below the state averages in these

categories.

The Jasper Public Library in Marion County and the Clyde W. Roddy Public Library in Dayton, Tenn., are two exceptions.

Local funding per person for the Jasper Public Library in fiscal year 2002 was \$15.42, according to the most recently available data. This exceeded the state aver-

See LIBRARIES, Page B3

Sequatchie jail funding approved

BY SEAN MCCOMBS
STAFF WRITER

DUNLAP, Tenn. — Construction of a jail could begin in the next two weeks after Sequatchie County commissioners voted Monday to borrow up to \$6.5 million for construction costs.

County Mayor David Barker, who was appointed to the seat Monday night, said bids for the project will be put in the local newspaper this week. He said construction will take between 14 and 16 months.

"We're hoping bids will come in considerably lower than that," he said. "If that is the case, we won't have to borrow the whole amount."

The Sequatchie County Jail is not certified by the Department of Correction, and Sheriff Ronnie Hitchcock has said the jail is run down and out of date.

The money will be borrowed through a University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service loan pool. The loan allows the county to only pay back the money it borrows and offers a low variable rate, county officials said.

Tommy Johnson, who was selected as the commission's chairman Monday, said the 96-bed facility also will house a courtroom and the county clerk's office.

The commission will have to raise property taxes to pay for the jail, commission officials said.

McMinn passes adult business rules



Taking over

Tom Grant is getting acquainted with his new duties as Cleveland public works director. • *Below*

Southeast Tennessee

Attanooga Times Free Press

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Tennessee Digest

ALTAMONT

Accident victim from Palmer

A woman who died Sunday in a Grundy County car crash has been identified as Linda Zane, 44, of Palmer, Tenn. According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Ms. Zane was a passenger in a car driven by Charles Payne that crashed off Highway 108 and hit a tree about 5 p.m. CDT. Danger hospital officials

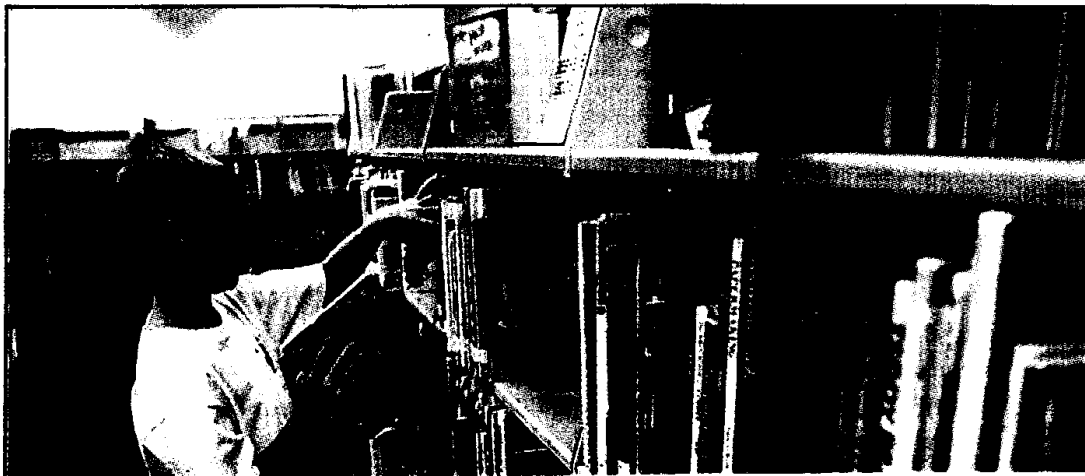
Libraries' support lagging

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Area officials say that's partly because county and city governments don't have the resources to fully support libraries. Most libraries in the region are funded primarily by local tax money.

"I would say we're underfunded, but not as much as we were," said Carolvne L. Knight.



Sequatchie jail fund approve

BY SEAN MCCOY
STAFF WRITER

DUNLAP, Tenn. — Construction of a jail could begin in the next two weeks, Sequatchie County commissioners voted Monday. The project could cost as much as \$6.5 million.

County Mayor David Dunlap, who was appointed to the position Monday night, said bid for the project will be put in the

cism from legislators that they make too much money and get too many perks.

Sen. Steve Cohen, a Memphis Democrat who was the primary force in the Legislature for creating the games, said the lottery is "doing as well as expected because people have played it and enjoyed it."

"The only bad side is we're paying way too much to our officers and giving them way too much leeway."

The lottery turned over \$123 million to the state's scholarship fund Thursday — well ahead of the estimated \$88 million needed for the upcoming school year.

The first ticket went on sale Jan. 20, and more than 4,300 vendors are selling roughly 13 million tickets a week.

Much of the credit has gone to lottery President and CEO Rebecca Paul, whom the lottery board of directors lured away from the Georgia Lottery last fall.

Paul started lotteries in Georgia and Florida, and Cohen often referred to her as "the Michael Jordan" of lottery chiefs.

Paul was given a base salary of \$350,000, less than the \$500,000 she was making in Georgia. Tennessee offered her incentives of up to \$402,000, depending on the success of the games.

Paul started hiring top level executives, several from her staff in Georgia, and paying them \$180,000 a year plus moving and living expenses. The salaries became an easy target for critics, and even Gov. Phil Bredesen said he thought the lottery "has enough Georgians."

But lottery board member Jim Hill, of Chattanooga, defended Paul and her start-up team last week in a legislative hearing.

"Clearly her experience and performance outstripped any of the other candidates," Hill said. "What business have you ever started where you wouldn't hire the best candidate in the universe?"

Rep. Chris Newton, R-Benton, said the lottery executives earned their salaries.

"The folks that were brought were paid a premium because they're some of the best in the



**LOTTERY
TENNESSEE**



Rebecca Paul

Libraries: Support lags

• Continued from Page B1

age of \$10.18, though it still fell short of the national average of \$23.65.

Local funding per person for the Clyde W. Roddy library that same year was \$10.29.

Kay Madewell, director of the Clyde W. Roddy library, said the biggest costs for libraries typically are employees' salaries; building costs, such as utilities and maintenance; and materials, such as books, magazines and videos.

"We do not turn over a profit. We're really a cost," Ms. Madewell said.

Fortunately, the library's budget has grown as the number of people it serves has grown, she said. That number currently is nearly 22,000 people.

Andrew Hunt, director of the Cleveland Public Library in Bradley County, said small libraries have to learn to live within their means.

"People just expect a certain level of service, and we try to provide those services but maybe not on the same scale as larger libraries," Mr. Hunt said. The library has public Internet access and is starting up a book-mobile program.

Although the Cleveland Library has more money in its budget than most of the libraries in the region, it also serves 90,000 residents. Outside resources such as volunteers and donations from its Friends of the Library organization are needed to shore up these services,

BY THE NUMBERS

Books and funding per capita for selected area public libraries

■ **Altamont:** 1 book per capita, \$1.49 in local funding per capita

■ **Benton:** 0.34 books, \$1.17 in local funding

■ **Cleveland:** 1.15 books, \$7.79 in local funding

■ **Clyde W. Roddy (Dayton):** 1.48 books, \$10.29 in local funding

■ **E.G. Fisher (Athens):** 1.01 books, \$4.03 in local funding

■ **Jasper:** 2.18 books, \$15.42 in local funding

■ **May Justus Memorial Library (Monteagle):** 1.17 books, \$2.50 in local funding

■ **Meigs-Decatur:** 1.1 books, \$2.82 in local funding

■ **Sequatchie County:** 1.54 books, \$5.17 in local funding

Source: Fiscal 2002 data from the National Center for Education Statistics

Mr. Hunt.

"Fifty percent of the material we added to our collection is through book donations," he said.

Mr. Hunt said the state's interlibrary loan system, which allows public libraries to borrow books from each other, also helps small, rural libraries meet patrons' needs.

"Lots of having to make due with a very creative," she said.

E-mail Kathleen Baydala at kbaydala@timesfreepress.com

Leader of group pushing ethics changes slams Naifeh

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE — The wife of an income tax opponent now backing House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh's Republican challenger is leading a push for stronger ethics laws for legislators and lobbyists.

Kelley Beaman announced Monday she has formed the Tennessee Institute for Governmental Ethics and Reform as a nonpartisan nonprofit. The groups plans to issue a report later this month.

Beaman singled out Democrat Naifeh for criticism because

Tennessee ranked 46th out of 50 states in a Pew Charitable Trust study of campaign disclosure laws and 45th in lobbyist regulation by the Center for Public Integrity. She said her husband isn't involved in the group.

Naifeh said he has helped pass bills prohibiting a candidate from diverting campaign funds to personal use, limiting campaign contributions and allowing for online posting of campaign contribution reports.

Kelley Beaman said \$30,000 of \$100,000 donated to the new institute came from the chari-

FOCUS NEWS

E-mail Candice Combs at ccomb

Red Bank arrests 2 on meth charges

Two Red Bank residents were arrested Tuesday and charged with possession of methamphetamine, officials said.

Red Bank Police Department detective Sgt. Steve Dillard said Kimberly Ann James, 33, and Paul Knight, 51, were arrested in their residence at 307 Ramona St.

Sgt. Dillard said police officials found a disassembled meth lab and reported smelling strong odors in and outside of the house. While there were no children present at the time of the arrest, Sgt. Dillard said officials found evidence of children having been in the house recently.

Ms. James also faces meth charges in Marion County and Bridgeport, Ala., Sgt. Dillard said.

Alabama fugitive assaults deputy

A man who escaped from a jail in Gadsden, Ala., assaulted

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